

Page 5, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following heading:

-- Description of the Preferred Embodiments --.

Page 6, delete the second paragraph (starting with "The light output...") and insert instead the following text:

A4 The control device 1 also comprises a time measuring means 10. The time measuring means 10 measures the respective individual operating duration of the gas discharge lamps 3 and adds it to the previously measured individual operating duration. Accordingly, the total operating duration of the gas discharge lamps 3 is obtained. Correlated with the time measuring means 10 is, for example, a reset switch 9 as an adjusting means. 44

IN THE CLAIMS (AMENDED SHEETS):

Please amend the claims as follows:

A5 1. (Amended) Method for the operation of an electric gas discharge lamp (3), [e.g., of an UV low-pressure tube,] in artificial sunning and irradiation devices [characterized by the following features] the method comprising the steps of:

a) storing in an electronic storage the characteristic

data for the individual gas discharge lamp (3) with respect to the decrease in the light output or radiation output [are stored in an electronic storage] depending on the total operating duration of the gas discharge member (3) ,

b) measuring and adding the respective individual operating duration of the gas discharge lamp (3) [is measured and added] to the preceding individual operating durations in order to obtain the total operating duration of the individual gas discharge lamp, and

c) automatically adjusting the electric output to be supplied to the gas discharge lamp (3) at a given time [is automatically adjusted] depending on the stored characteristic data with respect to the decrease in light output and radiation output and the respective total operating duration of the gas discharge lamp (3) for obtaining a predetermined light output or radiation output[, e.g., a light output or radiation output remaining at least approximately constant].

In claim 2, line 1, change "characterized in that" to -- wherein--.

3. (Amended) Method according to claim 1,

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[characterized in that] wherein the electric output to be supplied to the gas discharge lamp (3) is adjusted in such a way that it is smaller by a certain fraction[, for example, about 10 % smaller,] than the electric nominal output of the lighting means.

In claim 4, ~~line 1~~, change "characterized in that" to -- wherein--.

In claim 5, ~~line 1~~, change "characterized in that" to -- wherein--.

In claim 6, ~~lines 1-2~~, change "characterized in that" to -- wherein--.

In claim 7, ~~lines 1-2~~, change "characterized in that" to -- wherein--.

In claim 8, ~~lines 1-2~~, change "characterized in that" to -- wherein--.

9. (Amended) Circuit arrangement for the operation of

an electric gas discharge lamp, [carrying out the method according to claim 1, characterized by] the circuit arrangement comprising:

electric or electronic controlling means (1) containing a storage for characteristic data of the gas discharge lamp (3) and located in the circuit of the gas discharge lamp (3) for adjusting an electric output to be supplied to the gas discharge lamp (3) for the purpose of obtaining a predetermined light output or radiation output of the gas discharge lamp (3), [e.g., a light output or radiation output remaining at least approximately constant, within predetermined limits,] and [by]

time-measuring means configured to measure [for] the total operating duration of the gas discharge lamp (3), which time-measuring means are associated with the gas discharge lamp (3) and are electrically connected with the above-mentioned controlling means, wherein the controlling means adjusts, based on the measured total operating duration and the characteristic data of the gas discharge lamp, [for the purpose of adjusting] the electric output to be supplied to the gas discharge lamp (3) [in dependence on the total operating duration of the gas discharge lamp (3)].

In claim 10, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --
wherein--.

In claim 11, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --
wherein--.

In claim 12, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --
wherein--.

In claim 13, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --
wherein--.

In claim 14, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --
wherein--.

In claim 15, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --
wherein--.

In claim 16, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --
wherein--.

In claim 17, line 2, change "characterized in that" to --

wherein--.

Please add claims 18, 19, and 20:

18. Method according to claim 1, wherein in step c) the electric output is automatically adjusted to obtain a light output or radiation output remaining at least approximately constant.

as
19. Method according to claim 3, wherein the electric output to be supplied to the gas discharge lamp (3) is adjusted to be about 10 % smaller than the electric nominal output of the lighting means.

20. Circuit arrangement according to claim 9, wherein the predetermined light output or radiation output of the gas discharge lamp (3) is a light output or radiation output remaining at least approximately constant within predetermined limits.

IN THE ABSTRACT: